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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS.

THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WISCONSIN VICE COMMITTEE. PUBLISHED BY THE STATE OF WISCONSIN. 1913 pp. 246.

This report is the second State vice report to be published, the first being that of Massachusetts, published in 1913. The study of the cause and effects of prostitution in Wisconsin was made by a non-expert, unpaid, legislative committee composed of three state senators and three state representatives. Of these gentlemen, three were lawyers, one a doctor, one a decorator, and one a country newspaper editor. Five of them were candidates for re-election to the legislature last November and only one was successful. The members of the Committee not only gave generously of their time but, in honestly and energetically fighting a battle which proved to be unpopular in certain quarters, lost their political positions.

The report is the result of about sixteen months' steady work during which time public hearings were conducted in 13 cities, 605 witnesses were examined, 35 cities and towns studied by investigators and more than a million words of testimony and evidence secured. The report is a digest of this testimony and evidence with the deductions and recommendations of the Committee and numerous quotations in point from other reports and publications.

The body of the report dwells at considerable length upon the themes: first, the relation of the liquor traffic to prostitution; second, the relation of non-enforcement of law to prostitution.

The Committee finds the closest interlocking between commercialized vice and the business of selling intoxicants. Alcoholic drink is held to be one of the most important causes of immorality among women. The agents of saloons are frequently also the agents of houses of prostitution, the bartender often acting as a procurer for the prostitute. Wine rooms, palm gardens, and saloons are all included in the indictment, but roadhouses are found to be most wanton. Lying outside of the jurisdiction of neighboring cities from which they draw their patrons, roadhouses are difficult to regulate and to keep under police surveillance. Hotels and lodging houses which permit liquors to be served to guests in their rooms are also frequently found to be blameworthy. The selling of intoxicants in houses of ill-fame at exorbitant rates is one of the principal adjuncts and feeders of the business of prostitution. That this is true is indicated by the statement of a "madam" in which she says that when the sale of liquor was prohibited in her parlor house the general business decreased about one-half.

The Committee severely blames law enforcing officers for existing

conditions. In various instances it is shown that officers wink at the activities of mayors, sheriffs, district attorneys, police officers and others to the effect that these officers knowingly permitted grossly immoral conditions to be maintained in Wisconsin cities. Some of the reasons given by these officers for thus failing to enforce the law are as follows:

"I think it (prostitution) a necessity."

"The sentiment of the people is the controlling force regarding the enforcement of law."

"My judgment is as good, if not a little better, than some others making laws on this subject, (subject of redlight district)."

"My oath of office means that I shall use my judgment." (See page 148.)

The drift of the statements of all these officers indicates that public opinion did not demand the abolition of the houses of prostitution and that the officers were controlled by this attitude of the public. The Committee recommends that an officer shall either enforce the law or resign, and proposes a statute which will make it possible to remove an officer for non-enforcement of law.

The report contains some interesting statistics regarding illegitimacy; the earnings of prostitutes; the length of time during which a number of prostitutes had been engaged in business; the number of houses of ill-fame in certain Wisconsin cities, at the time of investigation, with the number of inmates in such houses; the work of the Milwaukee Society for the Prevention of Commercialized Vice in enforcing the Injunction and Abatement law; the statements of 63 district attorneys of the State regarding enforcement of laws relating to prostitution; Wisconsin hospitals which treat venereal disease; police records from Milwaukee at the time that city had a segregated district; and much other interesting material.

In general the report is especially valuable in two respects. It opens the question of moral conditions in small centers of population. It presents, first hand, numerous interesting cases.

Many of the cities visited and investigated are small centers for a wide farming area, towns of from 10,000 to 15,000 people. The fact that surprisingly bad conditions were found in many of these villages indicates that there are difficult and unsurveyed problems to be studied in the smaller centers of population. The Wisconsin report does not attempt to adequately analyze the problem of the small town but it does indicate the existence of the problem and gives a significant cue to the next investigation in a western state.

The quotations from the reports of investigators and testimony is especially interesting to readers of this document. Many people who see the report may not agree with the interpretations and deductions of the Committee, but they will not fail to be interested in such cases, as for instance, that of the ignorant and unfortunate girl cited on page 67, and the life story of the "madam" on page 181, and the intensely human statement of the prostitute on page 183. In this type of material the report is rich.

There may have been some carelessness in the handling of data, as for instance the statement on page 221, that, "testimony shows that a large majority of all males and a very large number of females, at some time during life, contract venereal disease." And again, on page 219, "the average mentality of women addicted to immoral practices is shown by the three recognized tests to be only about that of a child ten years of age." Such statements, without supporting data, may damage the report in the estimation of the careful student. The arrangement of the report is not as clear in its sequence of thought as it could be, there being a dearth of major and minor sectional headings to indicate the skeleton of the argument of the report.

At the close of the report there are 34 recommendations, 19 of which are again set forth in the form of bills to be presented in the 1915 legislature. The most important of these bills may be summarized as follows:

1. Making it a felony to transport females from one city or town in the State to another for purposes of prostitution (an application of the Mann Act to the State).
2. Requiring cities of the first, second and third class to provide police women.
3. Creating a state police department for the "investigation, detection, and prosecution" of crimes. This is based upon the findings of the Committee regarding non-enforcement of laws.
4. Raising the age of consent from 14 to 16 "previous chaste condition," to 18 and 21 "previous chaste condition."
5. Establishing an industrial institution for immoral women (modeled after the Bedford Reformatory of New York State.)
6. Inflicting a penalty upon any person who "transmits or assumes the risk of transmitting" "a venereal disease, (after the Iowa law on that point).
7. Authorizing the Circuit Court or Judge to remove any mayor, district attorney, city attorney, sheriff, police officer, marshal, or constable from office for "misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office."

Six or seven of these bills have been introduced in the Senate by Senator Robt. Monk, a member of the Vice Committee.

Twelve other bills are proposed relating to the conduct of saloons, wine rooms, employment offices, the sale of drugs and appliances, pandering, etc.

There is a broader significance to the Wisconsin Vice Report than has been indicated in the foregoing comments. The State of Massachusetts took the lead in carrying the problem of prostitution over from a purely municipal problem as it has been previously considered, and making it a conscious concern of the State. Wisconsin followed in the path of Massachusetts and a commission in Maryland is at this time studying Maryland's problem. The methods of the most advanced social sciences are being applied to the problem of prostitution, and the experience of cities and states which have ap-

proached the solution of the problem through a scientific method seems to indicate that this method has come to stay. Persons and agencies interested in the suppression of vice are no longer willing to act before knowing the facts in the case, for they now demand a careful diagnosis of conditions before attempting to prescribe remedies. Will the next step in advance be the Federal Government attacking the problem more definitely and investigating the causes and effects of prostitution as a national problem? Some of us who are interested in the campaign against the social evil look forward to this development.

Chicago.

WALTER CLARKE.

WANDERTRIEB UND PATHOLOGISCHES FORTLAUFEN BEI KINDERN. By *Edwald Stier*. Gustav Fischer, Jena, 1913. Pp. 135. Paper. M. 3. 60.

The writer's analysis is based on 87 cases of pathological "*Wandertrieb*" and vagrancy. These represent selected cases in which the tendency to run away was the chief symptom of clearly recognized mental disorder. All of these children had been patients in a neurological clinic, and were carefully examined and investigated by the writer himself.

The motives for running away are two-fold: physiological and pathological. The author's use of the word physiological is exasperatingly vague (p. 11, 33, 37, 55, 66). The context indicates that the word physiological is frequently used in the sense in which the psychologists use the word psychological. This monograph suffers chiefly from a lack of psychological insight—running away is a mental happening and cannot be interpreted merely as a chain of physiological events. In the majority of cases it is a consciously motivated undertaking.

The author's pathological—*i. e.*, related to mental disease—groups comprise the following: (1) Psychopathic children, including those suffering from exaggerated affect-reactions, those subject to a morbid hyperactivity of the imagination, those subject to serious ethical defects, those in whom running away is a family trait, cropping out at about the time of puberty, and those subject to other psychopathies. (2) Psychotics (incipient forms of dementia praecox). (3) Epileptics. (4) The feeble-minded. The most frequent pathological classes are the feeble-minded and the psychopathic, followed by the epileptics and hysterics. The juvenile cases with actual psychoses are rare.

The author has given an excellent analysis of cases which seem clearly to be pathological, or at least abnormal, although some doubt may be entertained as to whether all of his feeble-minded cases were actually feeble-minded. His testing of the level of intelligence of these cases was extremely meager—certainly markedly inferior to the work done in the best psychological clinics in America. In fact, certain statements in the text arouse the suspicion that some of these cases were diagnosed on the basis of facial appearance: *e. g.*, "a large, powerful youth, facial expression not clearly feeble-minded." But